

Senate Education Committee Amendment No. 1

Amendment No. 1 to HB1872

Winningham
Signature of Sponsor

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2008

House Bill No. 1872*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 6 of this act as a new, appropriately designated chapter.

SECTION 2. The purpose of this chapter is to provide school districts and students in all grades with a broader range of educational opportunities through effective use of technology.

SECTION 3.

(a) The state board of education is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

(b) The state board of education shall develop policies and guidelines for the operation of virtual education programs, including those operated by the department of education.

SECTION 4.

(a) Local education agencies are authorized to use BEP funds in the implementation and operation of virtual education programs.

(b) The department of education and local education agencies may apply for and receive grants and accept donations to help fund virtual education programs, particularly in the startup phase.

SECTION 5. The department of education shall annually submit to the governor, the general assembly, the state board of education, and the BEP review committee a complete and detailed reporting of:

(1) The operation of virtual education programs;

(2) The number of students enrolling in these programs and the success of the students, including an analysis of the academic accountability of the school's students. Such data shall be provided in total numbers and disaggregated and compared to corresponding data for students in traditional school settings;

(3) Efforts made to improve the programs and the delivery of classes, including new technologies examined or implemented;

(4) Funding received and the adequacy thereof; and

(5) Such other information as the department finds necessary to account for the operation of virtual education programs.

The report shall be submitted by July 1 of each year, beginning in 2009.

SECTION 6. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require local education agencies to offer or participate in a virtual education program. Participation in a virtual education program by a student shall be at the discretion of the local education agency in which the student is enrolled or zoned to attend; provided, however, that only students in grades kindergarten through twelve (K-12) who were enrolled in and attended a public school during the previous school year shall be eligible to participate in a virtual public education program. Students who are receiving hospital or homebound instruction shall also be eligible to participate.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.